

# Kaplan agrees to Hidden Lake repairs

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Home News Trenton Bureau

TRENTON — Developer Michael Kaplan agreed yesterday to make final repairs to the central sewer line at his Hidden Lake house and apartment development in North Brunswick, resolving one of the issues that has plagued the five-year-old luxury housing project.

Deputy Atty. Gen. Keith A. Onsdorff said that Kaplan, who is president of Ceran Corp. and Norbrun Corp. of Highland Park, had agreed at a conference here to comply with the remaining items on a checklist of needed repairs prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection. He said he

would ask the courts to lift an injunction against further sewer connections at the 900-unit development, after receiving certification from the department that the repairs have been made.

William Honachefsky, Raritan Basin water pollution manager for the Department of Environmental Protection, said that Kaplan had already performed 65 per cent of the repair work, and estimated it would take about two weeks to do the remainder.

"We've made substantial progress," he said. "When we're done, the sewer system will be one of the best in the township."

The agreement was reached

at a meeting yesterday morning between Onsdorff, Honachefsky and officials of both the Kaplan development firm and North Brunswick. Kaplan and his attorney Frederick Becker, as did North Brunswick township and attorney Joseph Burns and township engineer Arthur Vitale.

It ends one of the issues raised by government agencies in investigations of the controversial planned unit development, since homeowners and apartment tenants began publicizing complaints on construction standards two years ago.

Kaplan was scheduled to appear in Superior Court today for a hearing on his petition to set

aside a township-imposed stop work order. The order had been lifted temporarily by Superior Court Judge C. John Strumtsos.

That hearing was postponed until Sept. 24.

The township ordered a halt to construction at both the apartment and home sites in Hidden Lake after discovering an additional apartment in two buildings and additional rooms in many of the apartments.

Kaplan, according to the township, also began to construct a second recreation building without approval from the township and built a pool where tennis courts were to have been constructed.

He later attempted a land swap with the township in order to construct the tennis courts.

It was the differences between that swap site plan and original plans which brought the additional construction to the township's attention.

An investigation by the U.S. Attorney's office dealing in part with the Hidden Lake approvals has brought an indictment against William A. Dailey, a township engineer at the time the project was begun, for failing to pay federal taxes on \$472,000 in fees paid him by the township between 1970 and 1974. Dailey, who was replaced as engineer this year by Vitale, pleaded guilty to two of the counts in the indictment, and faces sentencing Sept. 14.

The federal investigation is continuing.